

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 09670

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: REPORTED PLANS FOR AN AMNESTY DECREE FOR
- "POLITICAL PRISONERS"

1. SUMMARY. OPPOSITION SOURCES REPORT THE PREPARATION OF A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF AMNESTY FOR "POLITICAL PRISONERS," INCLUDING AQUINO, WHICH MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SUCH A DECREE WOULD IN FACT FACILITATE AQUINO'S RELEASE AND, IF SO, WHETHER AQUINO WOULD BE PREPARED TO END HIS POLITICAL ROLE HERE AND GO INTO EXILE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A JUNE 7 CONVERSATION EX LABAN CANDIDATE NOLI SANTOS TOLD LABATT THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD MET THREE TIMES WITH LABAN LEADERS RECENTLY TO EXPLORE WAYS TO BRING ABOUT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. ACCORDING TO SANTOS, THE LAST MEETING RESULTED IN SENATOR TANADA'S BEING COMMISSIONED TO DRAFT A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE GRANTING AMNESTY TO ALL "POLITICAL PRISONERS," INCLUDING AQUINO. NOLI SANTOS SAID THAT TANADA HAD ALREADY MET WITH JUSTICE MINISTER ABAD SANTOS TO COORDINATE THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSED DECREE. NOLI SANTOS DID NOT
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KNOW WHEN THE DECREE WOULD BE PROMULGATED.

3. ON JUNE 8 JAPANESE MINISTER TANIGUCHI INFORMED ACTING DCM THAT HE HAD VISITED AQUINO'S WIFE ABOUT A WEEK AGO TO CONVEY SOME MESSAGES FROM FRIENDS OF AQUINO IN JAPAN. TANIGUCHI REPORTED THAT MRS. AQUINO, WHILE IN GOOD SPIRITS, FELT THAT THE RECENT ELECTIONS FORECLOSED

ANY POLITICAL ROLE FOR AQUINO IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS. SHE HAD CONCLUDED THEREFORE THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR AQUINO TO SEEK TO GO INTO EXILE AND INDICATED SHE WAS TRYING TO PERSUADE HER HUSBAND ALONG THESE LINES. TANIGUCHI ALSO SAID THAT A JAPANESE EMBOFF HAD SEEN EX-LABAN CANDIDATE RODRIGO FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION EARLIER THIS WEEK. RODRIGO REPORTEDLY EXPECTS AN AMNESTY DECREE, WHICH WOULD COVER AQUINO, TO BE ANNOUNCED BY JUNE 12.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS EVIDENTLY CONTINUING ACTIVITY HERE TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOP AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. OUT OF THIS PROCESS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME SORT OF AMNESTY DECREE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. IF SO, WE WILL WISH TO ANALYZE THE CONDITIONS, COVERAGE, ETC. OF SUCH AMNESTY IN ASSESSING ITS SIGNIFICANCE. SHOULD AQUINO BE INCLUDED IN THE AMNESTY, WE WILL NEED TO KNOW WHETHER ANY CONDITIONS SPECIFIED ARE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. AS TO POSSIBLE EXILE, AQUINO HAS RESISTED THIS IN THE PAST. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF HE IS NOW PREPARED TO RESPOND TO HIS FAMILY'S WISHES AND RELINQUISH HIS ROLE AS THE PRIMARY OPPOSITION FOCUS IN THE PHILIPPINES.
MURPHY

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